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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/814,008 | 03/31/2004 | Bruce W. Gerhold | 33996US1 | 5561 |

7590 09/23/2004

Richmond, Hitchcock, Fish & Dollar
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Bartlesville, OK 74005

EXAMINER

GARTENBERG, EHUD

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3746

DATE MAILED: 09/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 10/814,008 | Applicant(s) GERHOLD, BRUCE W. | |
| | Examiner Ehud Gartenberg | Art Unit 3746 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 April 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/01/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mandai 6,434,945 (published in Japan on 6/24/2000) in view of Wall 4,289,475. Mandai teaches the invention as disclosed: a method of fueling a gas turbine with either gaseous fuel 4 or a mixture of liquid fuel and steam 5. However, Mandai does not teach the composition and properties of the liquid fuel, or the sequence of fueling as claimed. Wall teaches to supply a burner first with gaseous fuel, then with a mixture of steam and light hydrocarbons (col. 1, l. 47 et seq., ll. 64-65, l. 41 et seq.) in the proportions as claimed (Abstract, l. 3-4). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the claimed invention to use Wall's burner and method with Mandai's gas turbine, in order to allow interchangeable use of natural gas and light hydrocarbons in the gas turbine of Mandai, and therefore allow flexibility with regard to the fuel that is being used. Specific clarifications with regard to certain claims follow. Claim 3 is rejected as a desired result that is taught by Walls on col. 1, ll. 27-53. Claim 4 is rejected in view of mixing element 23 of Wall. Claims 5-6 are rejected because after being mixed with steam in element 23, Walls mixture stays and behaves like the first

gas up to the point of injection into the burner, as per the (above quoted) operational philosophy of Wall to have the gaseous fuel and the fuel/steam mixture completely interchangeable. Claim 8 is rejected because Mandai's apparatus is obviously capable of burning simultaneously gaseous fuel through element 4 and fuel/steam mixture through element 5. Claim 9 is rejected because it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use the products of an LNG plant in locations where natural gas pipes from the producing fields do not reach, but that are located near ports having terminals for large LNG tankers.

Conclusion

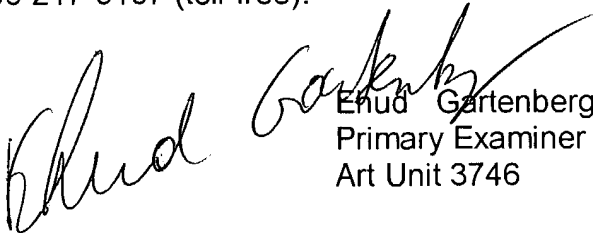
3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Alquist 3850569.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ehud Gartenberg whose telephone number is 703/308-2634. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cheryl Tyler can be reached on 703/306-2772. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3746

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Ehud Gartenberg
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3746

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